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Report from the Right Honourable the President of the Privy Council to the Honourable the Privy Council, approved by the Governor General on the 11th March, 1904

On a Report dated 7th February, 1904, from the Right Honourable the President of the Privy Council, submitting that an Act passed at the last Session of Parliament, respecting the management and control of public and other works (3 Edward VII., C. 53) provides for the transfer by the Governor in Council of the management, charge and direction of any public works, or any power, duty or function with respect to any work or class of works, whether public or private, which is assigned to or vested by statute in any Minister or Department, to any other Minister or Department.

The Minister recommends as follows:—

1. With a view to systematizing and facilitating the work in connection with hydrographic surveys, the administration of which branch of the public service is assigned to the Department of Marine and Fisheries under the provisions of 55-56 Vic., C. 17, and the work whereof has been continuously performed by that Department for many years past, that all the hydrographic work of the Departments of Public Works and of Railways and Canals be transferred to the Department of Marine and Fisheries, and that that Department alone be charged in future with the management and control of such surveys.

2. That from or after the 1st of July next (1904), the management and control of the St. Lawrence ship channel, together with the dredging and sweeping plant, steamers and all other appliances now used by the Department of Public Works in connection with that work, be transferred to the Department of Marine and Fisheries, so as to place the supervision of the improvements to navigation on the St. Lawrence route under the jurisdiction of the Department which is directly responsible for the aids to navigation on that route.

3. That all the duties, powers and functions with respect to any work or class of works conferred upon the Minister of Public Works by any of the Acts relating to Harbour Commissioners, be transferred to and hereafter exercised by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries.

4. That any records and plans in the possession of the Department of Public Works or of Railways and Canals, which refer to any of the above mentioned works, and which may be required by the Department of Marine and Fisheries for its information and guidance upon assuming control of the said works, be transferred to the last named Department upon its making application therefor.

5. That all moneys voted by Parliament to either the Department of Public Works or that of Railways and Canals for the purpose of carrying out any of the works under the control of either Department and now transferred to the Department of Marine and Fisheries, be placed to the credit of the last named Department.

6. That the changes as recommended above take effect from this date, except as hereinabove otherwise provided.

The Committee submit the same for approval.

JOHN J. MCGEE,

*Clerk of the Privy Council.*

